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## A Winning Sound

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# A Winning Sound

## for a Winning Season:

Mary Pappert School of Music Records  
New Music for **Pirates Home Games**

As part of an educational partnership with the Pittsburgh Pirates, a group of students, alumni and faculty from the Mary Pappert School of Music recorded an original composition that became part of this past season's PNC Park soundtrack. The music, composed by Professor of Music and Chair of Jazz Studies Mike Tomaro, was used as the background music for the team introduction video at the start of every home game. The video made its debut at the Pirates' home opener on April 1, 2013.

According to Tomaro, the music was written to have a similar sound to the theme for late-night talk show, *Conan*. "I listened to that and combined it with the music and instrumentation of one of my favorite horn bands, Tower of Power," Tomaro said. "We had five horns (two trumpets, a trombone, a tenor saxophone and a baritone saxophone), one guitar, a keyboard, a bass and drums in the recording to make this very strong sound."

While this partnership has provided the Pirates with some catchy music for the team introduction video, Tomaro said it also has provided music students with valuable performance time and the real-life experience of a commercial recording session.

"When I was a student here, I performed almost every weekend out in the city with wedding bands, big bands, pit orchestras, rock bands, etc.," Tomaro said. "Not only was I making money, I was also gaining valuable professional playing experience. Students these days don't have as many opportunities like this available to them, so it was important for them to experience the concept of a commercial recording session."

Participants in the project included Tomaro (baritone saxophone) along with music students Cory Caruso (drums), Ben Sherman (guitar), John Chaisson (trumpet), Nick Natalie (tenor sax) and Mike Bernabe (keyboard), as well as alumni Nick Benner (trumpet), Ryan McMasters (bass) and Naoko Hirai (trombone).

"I was very proud of the result," added Tomaro. "It was a huge kick for me to not only direct the students, but also to play with them."



# Incore

## DARRYL YOKLEY

Saxophonist Darryl Yokley (B.M. Performance, 2004) and his band, Sound Reformation, released their first album, *The Void*, in November 2012.

The album, which was released on the ARC (Artist Recording Collective) record label, features tracks with distinct flavors—from classic jazz to songs with a distinct ethnic sound.

"The album's concept is that music is something that is universal," Yokley said. "It's beyond any categories that we can place them into. Some of the tunes have an ethnic sound. Others have the flavor of something you may hear in a movie soundtrack. It's all about the power of music that is present in all these different situations."

Yokley teaches at the Westminster Conservatory in Princeton, NJ and is a freelance musician in the New York area. Sound Reformation will enter the studio again next year to begin work on a new album.